

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments provides a variety of services and programming to the municipalities of Franklin County and to the greater Franklin County region. The FRCOG's 2016 Annual Report, which will be available in April of 2017 and on [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org) shortly thereafter, will highlight our work over the past year. Specific services to the Town of Rowe in 2016 included the following.

#### **Administration and Special Projects**

- Staff worked with members of the Selectboard, Finance Committee, and the Executive Secretary to develop wide-ranging Town financial policies as part of the Baker-Polito Community Compact Program. By formally accepting the policies, the Town has earned points toward future state grant opportunities.
- Individual members of several town energy committees met together informally on a bi-monthly basis to share news from their respective towns and to learn from each other and from invited guests about energy-related topics of mutual interest. FRCOG staff provided assistance in facilitating meetings, presented information, and conducted follow-up communication.

#### **Collective Bidding & Purchasing Program**

- Rowe contracted with the FRCOG to receive cooperative bid pricing for up to 24 different Highway Products and Services. Total estimated highway needs for FY17 is \$603,679.
- Rowe participated in the #2 Fuel, Gasoline, and Diesel Fuel bids.
- Rowe participated in the Dog Tags and Licenses collective bid program.
- Rowe participated in the Elevator Maintenance program.
- The Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) issued a bid for Weatherization Projects.
- The CPO issued bids for Wood Pellet Boiler installation.

#### **Cooperative Public Health Service Health District**

As of July 1, 2016, Rowe became a comprehensive member of the CPHS health district, sharing health agents and a regional public health nurse.

- Staff worked with the Board of Health to roll out a 24/7 online public health permitting program for residents and contractors.
- Staff assisted the Town Nurse in providing a flu clinic for Rowe seniors.
- The FRCOG provided Rowe residents with access to low-cost tick tests through a district contract.
- Staff was responsible for Title-5 (septic) related activities after July 1, 2016, including 2 Soil Evaluations for on-lot septic systems, reviewing septic system plans, issuing Local Upgrade Approvals and DSCP (septic) permits, completing final inspections or re-inspections of septic system installations, and preparing Certificates of Compliance.
- Through a FDA Food Safety Grant that will improve food inspection and data collection, the district offered residents low-cost access to important food safety training on ServeSafe, Choke Saver, and Allergans. Two (2) Rowe residents took the training.
- Staff conducted 7 retail food inspections and one B&B inspection.
- Staff completed 1 Summer Camp inspection and conducted 1 re-housing inspection.
- Staff collected landfill monitoring samples at the Refuse Garden on behalf of the Board of Health.

- Staff offered medication and chronic disease self-management services to residents, holding regular hours for all district residents at five community sites. The nurse is also available for home visits for those who need this service.
- Staff provided services to attendees of monthly “Good Neighbors” food distribution at Charlemont Federated Church where 24 area residents made 58 visits with the nurse for health screening services and assistance with self-management of chronic illness.
- Staff coordinated vaccine and supplies assisting Town officials from Charlemont, Hawley, Heath, Monroe, and Rowe in implementing a Hawlemont Region Emergency Dispensing Site drill flu clinic and animal rabies clinic. A total of 41 area residents were served with the help of GCC nursing students and community volunteers.

### **Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program**

- Staff issued 28 building permits, 22 electrical permits & 18 plumbing/gas permits for Rowe in 2016. Nine (9) Certificates of Inspection were issued.

### **Partnership for Youth**

- Staff conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Mohawk Trail Regional School administrators on results from 137 Mohawk students, representing 63% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant-writing and program planning.
- Staff presented to the CPHS Annual Meeting on the Healthy Community Design Toolkit, Volume 2: Municipal Strategies to Increase Food Access.

### **Planning and Development Department**

- Staff assisted the town in updating their Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was approved by FEMA on June 30, 2016.
- Staff prepared a Draft Business Plan and Legislation for the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Project for 11 West County towns including Rowe, with specific recommendations and projects to support Natural Resource Based Economic Development, Forest Conservation & Municipal Financial Sustainability.

### **Regional Preparedness Program**

- Staff conducted quarterly contact drills and a site notification drill to test the *Hawlemont Emergency Dispensing Site Plan*.
- Staff designed and executed a drill that tested the Plan for the use of the Incident Command System, set up of the emergency operations center, and the receipt of medical countermeasures from the Strategic National Stockpile.
- Rowe entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the FRCOG to recognize the Multi-Agency Coordination Center as the official organization to assist them with emergency management needs.

## **Workshops & Training**

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops and training sessions that Rowe public officials, staff, and residents attended and the number in attendance.

### **Cooperative Public Health Service**

ServSafe/Choke Saver/Allergen Training Series — 2

Food Systems — 2

### **Municipal Official Continuing Education Series**

Municipal Law — 1

### **Partnership for Youth**

Advanced LifeSkills — 1 representative of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District

### **Planning, Conservation, and Development**

Zoning Exemptions — 1

### **Regional Preparedness Program**

Hawlemont Emergency Dispensing Site Drill – 1

### **Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

Active Shooter Symposium — 1